

REMARKS

Claim 1 stands objected to for informalities in the claim language. In particular, it is alleged that lines 4-6 of claim 1 contain confusing language. Applicants thank the Examiner for his suggestion of claim language to overcome this objection. Applicants have now amended claim 1. This amendment includes the language proposed by the Examiner with slight modifications. Support for the amendments to claim 1 are found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as filed, such as on pages 6-10. Applicants believe that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the previous objections to claim 1.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, it is alleged that the catalytic-activity particles should contain both the catalytic-activity constituent and the carrier-forming constituent and that claim 2 fails to include the carrier-forming constituent as part of the catalytic-activity particles. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that, in light of the current amendment to claim 1, claim 2 is sufficiently definite in its current state.

The invention of claim 2 is directed to the hydrocarbon-reforming catalyst of claim 1 where the catalytic-activity particles are Ni, Co, or a mixture thereof. As stated in claim 1, the catalytic-activity particles are produced by activating an oxidized catalytic-activity constituent, which is distributed in a complex oxide.

The complex oxide, which includes at least one catalytic-activity constituent and at least one carrier forming constituent, is formed by impregnating the catalytic-activity constituent and the carrier-forming constituent on the surface of the porous carrier body and calcinating the carrier body. Impregnation of the catalytic-activity constituent oxidizes the catalytic-activity constituent, thereby forming an oxidized catalytic-activity constituent. As recited in claim 1, activation of this oxidized catalytic-activity constituent produces the catalytic-activity particles.

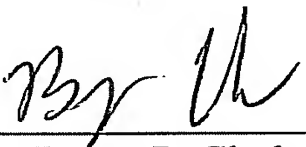
In claim 2, the catalytic-activity particles are Ni, Co, or a mixture thereof. Because claim 1 recites that the catalytic-activity particles are produced by activating the oxidized catalytic-activity constituent, and not the complex oxide itself, claim 1 does not necessarily require that the catalytic-activity particles also include the carrier-forming constituent.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the claim objections and rejections and allowance of claims 1 and 2 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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